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Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON
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31 May 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

As organisations representing the health professions, patients, NHS staff and NHS organisations, we are dismayed at the continuing delay in publishing a funded health workforce plan for England. We urge you to act by publishing a sustainable plan immediately. None of your policy commitments on health can be achieved unless we address the chronic workforce shortage.

Across all sectors, professions, specialities, condition pathways and services there are mass vacancies and insufficient numbers of staff to meet current, let alone future, population need. It will take time to resolve this situation, which is why the delay in acting to address the workforce crisis is so damaging. The sooner we start to train and recruit more staff, and act to retain those already serving the public, the sooner we will see improvements in healthcare.

Many of us have contributed to developing the workforce plan. We want it to succeed. We want to be able to welcome it if it provides the long term vision needed and clearly commitments to funded workforce expansion. Please act now.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director, **Age UK**
Shantel Irwin, Chief Executive, **Arthritis Action**
Sue Brown, Chief Executive, **Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance**
Henry Gregg, Director, **Asthma & Lung UK/Chair of the Taskforce for Lung Health**
Baroness Delyth Morgan, Chief Executive, **Breast Cancer Now**
Gary Fereday, Chief Executive, **British Association of Art Therapists**
Jane Bourne, Chair, **British Association of Dramatherapists**
Andrew Langford, Chief Executive, **British Association of Music Therapy**
Peter Iliff, **Chair, British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists**
Steve Aspinall, Chief Executive, **British Association of Sport Rehabilitators**
Liz Stockley, Chief Executive, **British Dietetic Association**
Sarah Mistry, Chief Executive, **British Geriatrics Society**
Veronica Greenwood, Chair, **British and Irish Orthoptic Society**
Prof. Phil Banfield, Chair of Council, **British Medical Association**
Nadra Ahmed, Chair, **Care Provider Alliance**
Prof. Karen Middleton, Chief Executive, **Chartered Society of Physiotherapy**

Tracy Nicholls, Chief Executive, **College of Paramedics**
Luke Griggs, Chief Executive, **Headway**
Paul Donaldson, General Secretary, **HCSA - the hospital doctors union**
Maurice Cheng, Chief Executive, **Institute of Osteopathy**
Jon Restell, Chief Executive, **Managers in Partnership**
Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, **NHS Confederation**
Georgina Carr, Chief Executive, **Neurological Alliance**
Juliet Tizzard, Director, **Parkinson's UK**
Mark Koziol, Chairman, **Pharmacists' Defence Association**
Duleep Allirajah, Chief Executive, **Richmond Group of Charities**
Suzanne Tyler, Director, **Royal College of Midwives**
Steve Ford, Chief Executive, **Royal College of Occupational Therapists**
Dr Camilla Kingdon, President, **Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health**
Prof. Mike Osborn, President, **Royal College of Pathologists**
Michelle Scott, Chairman, **Royal College of Podiatry**
Steve Jamieson, Chief Executive, **Royal College of Speech & Language Therapy**
Craig Jones, Chief Executive, **Royal Osteoporosis Society**
Thorrún Govind, English Pharmacy Board Chair, **Royal Pharmaceutical Society**
Richard Evans, Chief Executive, **Society of Radiographers**
Nik Hartley OBE, Chief Executive, **Spinal Injuries Association**
Charlotte Nicholls, Head of Policy, **Stroke Association**
Christina McAnea, General Secretary, **UNISON**
Chloë Hayward, Executive Director, **UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum**

CC. DHSC, NHS England.